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**COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN SCOTT H. CHRISTIANSEN
ANNOUNCES HE WILL RUN FOR RE-ELECTION IN 2012**

(Rockford, IL)...With family and friends at his side, Winnebago County Board Chairman Scott H. Christiansen formally announced that he will run for re-election in 2012. The announcement came at Christiansen's annual fundraiser, "Rockin on the Rock," held at Cliffbreakers Friday night. Christiansen has served as Chairman since 2004.

Christiansen's accomplishments have included focusing on economic development through infrastructure improvements, addressing critical issues in the criminal justice system, expanding tourism programs and attractions through the county host fee, and streamlining government through greater efficiencies and collaboration.

One of Christiansen's strengths has been finding ways to do more with less taxpayer dollars. "In this fast-paced world we live in, it is our duty as government officials to provide government services that are delivered efficiently, economically and in a manner that is easy to understand by the citizens of Winnebago County - our customers," Christiansen said.

The County tax rate remains at a low level, just 7.46% of the total tax bill for a citizen living in the city of Rockford. "When I began my second term of office in 2008," he stated, "the cost to provide government services was \$222 million. The budget for fiscal year 2011 is \$181 million, a decrease in \$40 million or a reduction of just under 20%."

Another of Christiansen's major accomplishments has been the creation of the Freedom Field renewable energy project. Four years after its inception, Freedom Field has grown into an 8,400 square-foot classroom, conference room and exhibit hall located at the Rock River Water Reclamation District (Kishwaukee St.). The facility, which uses numerous forms of renewable energy, is designed to develop new business and job opportunities in the renewable energy field.

"We need fresh, bold ideas if we are to succeed as a region," Christiansen stated. "I am committed to continuing efforts to create new economic opportunities for our county through increased job training programs, infrastructure improvements and readiness, and through new partnerships in both the private and public sectors." Christiansen believes that if the community attacks its critical issues with the same enthusiasm and energy that has gone into attracting Embry Riddle to the region, then we are bound to succeed.

"It has been a privilege and honor to serve as County Board Chairman, and I welcome the opportunity to continue in that role for the next four years," he added.

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